

MODERN ENGINEERING

M.S. Shkurat – group M-01

I.A. Morozova – EL Adviser

Technology is taking such rapid strides forward at such a blurring pace that what is considered a marvelous novelty turns into a mundane common object within no time. To classify and bunch a set of man-made marvels from a world that is being constantly altered is a pretty tough job. Finding them is easy enough in a world filled with man-made wonders but the relevance of such a compilation will be short-lived compared with a list from the ancient world. Yet I embark on a journey across the planet and beyond to try and find out the best the world has to offer—our own creations that leave us in awe.

I have found seven marvels of modern engineering.

1. CERN's Large Hadron Collider:

With an ability to change our understanding of the world around us and give us the reasons of our own existence, CERN's LHC is for now the most spectacular and important technological marvel modern science has created. It's truly amazing creation that could answer the questions about the creation and existence of this universe itself!

2. International Space Station (ISS):

It is one thing making wonders of engineering on earth and a whole different ballgame when you need to do it outside the planet in outer space. The International Space Station (ISS) is a research facility that is a joint project among the space agencies of the United States (NASA), Russia (RKA), Japan (JAXA), Canada (CSA) and eleven European countries. When completed in 2010, it will be the largest and grandest human endeavor away from home.

3. Three Gorges Dam:

Taking shape of the largest hydroelectric power plant in the world and that too by a long shot, the Three Gorges Dam in China is not just spectacular to watch but enormous in magnitude. Creating a reservoir as large as Lake Superior, this dam will be good as a grand marvel of modern engineering by becoming the world's largest concrete structure!

4. Petronas Twin Towers:

At 452 meters tall, the Petronas Twin Towers are magnificent and unique. While their familiarity seems at times to diminish their true aura, you only need to stand in front of the towers for one moment to realize the magnitude of the construction. For sheer intimidating height and the sophisticated look, they are a marvel of modern times.

5. Space Telescope Chandra:

Also known as the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility, Chandra is an X-ray telescope orbiting the earth and sending back the most spectacular images of the cosmos that man has ever captured. The telescope moves in an orbit which makes it the furthest traveling earth-orbiting man-made object. The X-ray images offered by Chandra since its launch have redefined our notions of the cosmos and have given astronomy a whole new direction.

6. Palm Deira of Dubai:

Palm Deira is the latest of Dubai's trilogy of man-made islands. This island will occupy all of 46.35 million square meters of land reclaimed from the Persian Gulf to make the Palm Deira the largest man-made island in the entire world. All set to be finished by the year 2013, the island will further alter the landscape of effervescent Dubai!